

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Total Coliform Rule / Distribution System Advisory Committee

October 17-18, 2007

1255 – 23rd Street NW, Suite 275
Washington DC 20037

PROPOSED AGENDA

Meeting Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- Explore what is and isn't known about public health risks associated with drinking water from a variety of sources, including information about outbreaks and endemic illnesses and a discussion of the data in the context of risk assessment to explore what we know about the microbial public health risks from drinking water.
- Review case analyses of outbreaks to generate discussion about how the TCR currently or if modified can help prevent this kind of problem. Explore possible insights from initial exploration of associations between outbreaks and TCR indicators.
- Learn more about utility implementation of the current Total Coliform Rule, including a comparison of approaches to monitoring, reporting and public notification by system size and type, and follow up activities to a positive sample.
- Review variations in violation and monitoring information by system size, source water, and treatment, with appropriate caveats, initially in an exploratory manner to identify patterns (if any) that suggest directions for additional inquiry.
- Learn about sanitary surveys, including various state requirements, what a sanitary survey entails, and what is known about beneficial impacts.
- Discuss the relevant provisions of the Ground Water Rule (GWR), what public water systems are covered, and how the GWR links to the TCR, in part to continue discussion of extent to which other rules contribute to objectives in current TCR.
- Continue to learn about attributes of some of the possible subject areas for future data collection and research needs.
- Explore ideas for possible improvements to the TCR, and discuss process for framing options.
- Provide additional direction to technical work group on potential information and analyses to support the advisory committee.

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

8:00-8:30 Arrival

8:30-8:45 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives and Agenda
Objective: Review desired outcomes, agenda and materials for this meeting.

- 8:45-9:35 Presentation: Overview of Outbreak Information and Implications for Possible Public Health Risks from Drinking Water
Objective: Learn about CDC outbreak data and the distribution by type and size of system, by treatment versus distribution system origin, etc.
- Sharon Roy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [40 min]
- Discussion: [10 min]
- Clarification questions [discussion to follow after the break]
- 9:35-10:25 Presentation: Overview of Endemic Illness Information and Implications for Possible Public Health Risks from Drinking Water
Objective: Learn about available endemic illness information, beginning with estimates about background levels of enteric disease and then exploring what portion is waterborne disease and then what portion of that may be from drinking water.
- Christine Moe, Emory University [40 min]
- Discussion: [10 min]
- Clarification questions [discussion to follow after the break]
- 10:25-10:35 Break
- 10:35-11:15 Presentation: Interpreting the Data in a Risk Assessment Framework and Implications for Possible Public Health Risks from Drinking Water
Objective: Discuss the data in the context of risk assessment and explore what we know about the microbial public health risks from drinking water, addressing the strengths and limitations of the data.
- Joseph Eisenberg, University of Michigan [30 min]
- Discussion: [10 min]
- Clarification questions [discussion to follow after the break]
- 11:15-12:00 Expert Panel: What Is and Isn't Known About Possible Public Health Risks from Drinking Water
- Panel
Joe Cotruvo, Joe Eisenberg, Jeff Griffiths, Christine Moe, Sharon Roy
- Discussion: [45 min]
- Comments on previously published estimates of the range of GI (and other) disease in the US attributable to drinking water? What is the degree of confidence in those estimates? What are the most important uncertainties?
- Are we able to estimate the relative portion of that range that may be attributed to exposure from the distribution system (versus source/treatment contamination)? What is the degree of confidence in that estimate, and what are the most important uncertainties?

- What additional research or data collection is needed to make these determinations? And, how might that data be relevant to making future policy decisions?

Questions from TCRDSAC and General Discussion [60 min – during the working lunch below]

12:00-12:30 Working Lunch

12:00-12:30 break to get box lunches

12:30-1:30 Advisory Committee discussion with experts about implications of public health information

1:30-2:30 Presentation: Insights from Outbreak Case Studies
Objective: Review case analyses of outbreaks to generate discussion about how the TCR currently or if modified can help prevent this kind of problem. Explore possible insights from initial exploration of associations between outbreaks and TCR indicators.

Charlotte Smith, UC Berkeley, School of Public Health [30 min]

Discussion:

- What were the causative factors in selected drinking water related outbreaks?
- How did existing TCR provisions mitigate impact?
- Could these have been avoided if the TCR provisions were different?

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:15 Presentation: Initial Insights from Compliance Information
Objective: Review variations in violation rates by system size and type, source water, and treatment, with appropriate caveats, initially in an exploratory manner to identify patterns (if any) that suggest directions for additional inquiry.

Doug Owen, Malcolm Pirnie [20 min]

Discussion:

- Clarification questions [discussion to follow]

3:15-4:00 Presentation: Initial Insights from Monitoring Information
Objective: Review variations in monitoring data by system size, type and source water, with appropriate caveats, initially in an exploratory manner to identify patterns (if any) that suggest directions for additional inquiry.

Doug Owen, Malcolm Pirnie [30 min]

Discussion:

- Clarification questions [discussion to follow]

4:00-4:45 Discussion: Associations, Possible Issues to Explore, or Follow Up Questions
Objective: Share views on what was learned and discuss patterns (if any) that suggest directions for additional inquiry or specific issues to address in the revisions to the TCR.

Discussion:

- To what extent does the compliance information inform differences in burden across system size and type and how might that be reduced?
- To what extent does the occurrence information inform differences of potential public health concerns across system size and type and how might that be addressed?
- What follow up analyses might further inform the response to these questions?

4:45-6:00 Presentation: Implementation of the TCR by Large Systems and Small Systems
Objective: Learn more about utility implementation of the current Total Coliform Rule, including a comparison of approaches to monitoring, reporting and public notification by system size and type and follow up activities to a positive sample.

TBD

Discussion:

- How representative are these practices?
- What are the aspects of current implementation practices that should be retained and what changes in the rule should be considered?

6:00-6:30 Public Comment

Thursday, October 18, 2007

8:00-8:30 Arrival

8:30-8:45 Review Today's Agenda and Approve September Meeting Summary
Objective: Recap view desired outcomes, agenda and materials for this meeting. Approve September 2007 meeting summary.

⇒ *Action: Approve September 2007 meeting summary.*

8:45-9:45 Presentation: Sanitary Surveys
Objective: Learn about sanitary surveys, including various state requirements, what a sanitary survey entails, and what is known about beneficial impacts.

Patti Fauver, State of Utah [30 min]

Discussion:

- Are there opportunities for improvement in the sanitary survey requirements that would help with diagnosis and response to distribution system integrity problems?

- 9:45-11:00 [w/ break] Presentation: Ground Water Rule Provisions and Linkages to the TCR
Objective: Discuss the relevant provisions of the Ground Water Rule (GWR), what public water systems are covered by the GWR, and how the GWR links to the TCR, in part to continue discussion of extent to which other rules contribute to objectives in current TCR.
- Doug Owen, Malcolm Pirnie
- Discussion:
- To what extent do the objectives of the TCR remain unaddressed for groundwater systems?
 - To what extent are the TCR objectives still applicable?
- 11:00-12:30 Presentation: Additional Information on Some Distribution System Elements
Objective: Continue to learn about attributes of some possible subject areas for future data collection and research needs. Review a possible decision support tool. Provide direction to TWG on next steps for moving forward on this task.
- TBD
- Discussion:
- Where might information gaps define future research and information collection needs?
 - How might the TCRDSAC want to use the decision support tool?
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:45-2:45 Recap, General Discussion and Approach to Framing Options for Improving the TCR
Objective: Share views on what was learned throughout this meeting and discuss directions for additional inquiry, specific issues to address, and/or ideas for possible improvements to the TCR. Discuss process for framing options.
- 2:45-3:00 Wrap Up and Review Next Steps
- 3:00 Adjourn

NOTE: This agenda was prepared by the facilitators for review by the Total Coliform Rule Distribution System Advisory Committee. The Total Coliform Rule Distribution System Advisory Committee is a federal advisory committee chartered by Congress, operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C., App.2). The committee provides advice to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on revisions to the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), and on what information about distribution systems is needed to better understand the public health impact from the degradation of drinking water quality in distribution systems. The findings and recommendations of the Committee do not represent the views of the Agency, and this document does not represent information approved or disseminated by EPA.